

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-13 ARA-10 CIAE-00 INR-11

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5290

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3044

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, KS, HO

SUBJ: KOREA AT 29TH UNGA: SOME LA CONCERNS

1. IN INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF FRIENDLY KOREAN ITEM WITH HONDURAN PERM REP TODAY, MISOFF TOLD THAT HONDURAS, ALTHOUGH ONE OF TRADITIONAL CO-SPONSORS, MIGHT HAVE "SOME TROUBLE" ASSOCIATING ITSELF TOO CLOSELY WITH PRO-ROK RESOLUTION THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF ROK GOVERNMENT ACTIONS AGAINST CATHOLIC LEADERS. HONDURAN AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HONDURAS AS "98PERCENT CATHOLIC COUNTRY" FEELS VERY DEEPLY ABOUT THIS ISSUE.

2. COMMENT: WHILE WE HAVE NO OTHER INDICATIONS SO FAR THAT THIS WILL BECOME AN ISSUE WITH OTHER LA'S, WE NOTE THAT LA GROUP HERE USUALLY CONSULTS CLOSELY ON UN ISSUES AND HONDURAN HESITATION MAY SOON BECOME COMMON KNOWLEDGE. SINCE MOST LA PERM REPS HAVE BEEN RECIPIENTS OF ROK LARGESS IN THE PAST, THEY MAY HESITATE TO MAKE THEIR CONCERN KNOWN DIRECTLY TO KOREANS. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER INFORMING KOREANS IN WAHSINGTON OR SEOUL THAT CATHOLIC ISSUE IS ONE WHICH MAY CAUSE US PROBLEMS ON CO-SPONSORSHIP THIS YEAR.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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